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## Hebrew Union College Discussion

### Dr. Kohler Makes Known His Wish to Retire as President

#### The Editorial of Rabbi Leo Franklin, President of the Conference of Rabbis

##### MORE LETTERS ENDORSE ROSENAU

Some interesting developments have taken place since our last article anent the Hebrew Union College. The most important is, that the venerable and highly respected president, Dr. Kaufman Kohler, has made known his desire to be relieved of the arduous duties incident to the office which he occupies. The communication was sent through Alfred M. Cohen, the able president of the Board of Governors of the College. Of course, the request will be granted, and Dr. Kohler will be made President Emeritus, at his full present salary. He deserves it at the hands of the college, at the hands of American Jewry which he has so faithfully and earnestly served.

Only those who have studied under President Kohler can adequately know his wonderful learning and his unbounded enthusiasm for Israel. His knowledge does not cover only one particular field of Hebrew Jewish thought, he is master of all. The mature student is simply swept away by the magnitude of that scholar's learning—and as a preacher, he has few, if any equals. Dr. Kohler will devote himself, we are certain, to those scholarly labors which he alone can accomplish, and we feel sure that if God gives him years and strength, he will enrich the world with treasures of Jewish lore for which Israel will be profoundly grateful.

The newspaper dispatch states that "the Board of Governors postponed taking formal action on Dr. Kohler's request until a later meeting, but members of the Board say that the wish of President Kohler will be granted, and he will be made Emeritus with the same salary as he now receives." And this is as it should be.

May God grant him years and strength!

##### Rabbi Fox Speaks Out.

(Rabbi Franklin's Editorial in the Detroit Jewish Chronicle)

Rabbi George Fox, editor of the Jewish Monitor, of Fort Worth, Texas, never hesitates to say, and say with emphasis, what he believes. All doubt, if any there had been as to this, would have been dissipated by a perusal of the last issue of his paper. In an article with headlines reaching across the page, he calls upon the Executive Committee of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, though as a matter of fact the latter organization has no authority in the matter, to at once take steps to make Dr. Kaufman Kohler, the venerable president of the Hebrew Union College, president emeritus of that institution and to put in his stead some younger man who may take up aggressively the hard and serious duties which such an office entails.

In making this suggestion, Dr. Fox would in no wise be construed as casting the slightest slur upon the greatest living Jewish scholar—Dr. Kohler—but he feels as do many more of Dr. Kohler's pupils and colleagues, not merely that he has well earned the right to be relieved from the wearing details inevitably connected with the presidency of a great institution, but what is of infinitely greater importance, he should have the leisure to devote his very great

scholarly abilities to the setting down in permanent form of the results of his life-long labors in those fields of Jewish literature of which he is singularly and uniquely the master.

One cannot but agree with Dr. Fox that the authorities of the college would be doing a real service to the Jewry of the world if they would make it possible for this great scholar thus to devote himself to purely library activities. But at the same time, one must wonder at the temerity of Dr. Fox in addressing himself as he has to the men who have not only the welfare of the college but of Jewry at large at heart. Surely these men are not blind to the great service that Dr. Kohler could render to our cause with greater leisure at his disposal, and it scarcely seems possible that they would require at the hands of any single graduate of the college a reminder of their duty in the premises.

But even more are we surprised that Dr. Fox should be bold enough while Dr. Kohler remains president of the college to suggest the name of any man as a successor to him. We are frank in saying that in our opinion, our colleague in the south, for whom we have the greatest respect, has in this matter stepped beyond the bounds of good judgment and of good taste. His action can be indulged only on the ground of his great enthusiasm for the cause and his undoubted desire to serve Judaism in the best possible way.

LEO. M. FRANKLIN.

We thank Rabbi Franklin for the compliment contained in the first sentence of his article. Our regret is that there are not other men, greater and wiser than we are, who also never hesitate to say what they believe. We would be satisfied if only they would say it, let alone saying it with emphasis.

Rabbi Franklin is the genial president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, an organization including the nearly two hundred graduates of the Hebrew Union College. We do not know the exact number of graduates of the College, but it must be closer to two hundred than to one hundred and fifty; practically all of them are members of the Conference; and if a secret may be told, for nearly all practical purposes, the graduates dominate the conference. Of course a certain amount of consideration is due the members who are not Hebrew Union College graduates, and this consideration is ungrudgingly given. In justice to the Conference it should be said, that the non-college-graduate members receive more consideration than the college-graduate members. And this, too, is as it should be.

We state these facts to show that Brother Franklin is not exactly correct, when he says that the Conference "has no authority in the matter—that is in the retirement of Dr. Kohler and the election in his stead, of another. In spite of the statements of some men on the College Board, to the effect that they would not listen to the de-

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